

Amendment to the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all previous versions and listings of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for automating recurrent electronic transactions conducted over a network, comprising:

gathering, by a purchasing system, data from an application executing on a computer device in response to electronic activities conducted by a network user of the computer device, the electronic activities subject to the gathering comprising accessing a web site, performing a detectable user action on a web page, drafting an email, searching a web-based electronic search engine, entering a new task or accessing an existing task in an electronic task folder, and creating, editing, or viewing a document; wherein the data gathered includes data collected in response to each of the electronic activities conducted by the network user;

performing, via the purchasing system, analysis of the electronic activities;

the purchasing system inferring an intent to execute a transaction by the network user, the inference based upon results of the analysis and absent any explicit action by the network user to execute the transaction; and

the purchasing system automatically executing the transaction on behalf of the network user, the automatically executing the transaction including executing a purchase of a service/product on behalf of the network user;

wherein the analysis includes:

comparing the electronic activities with previously-conducted electronic activities by the network user; ~~and~~

applying user-defined policies to the electronic activities; and

determining whether the user-defined policies of the network user are in conflict with the transaction;

wherein the transaction is executed upon determining the user-defined policies are not in

conflict with the transaction.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the comparing the electronic activities with previously-conducted electronic activities further comprises:

collecting data entered by the network user;

parsing the data by comparing the data to data stored in a database in communication with the purchasing system that contains the previously-conducted electronic activities, the parsing resulting in a suggested electronic transaction for execution;

searching the database for related resources associated with the suggested electronic transaction; and

searching a profile database in communication with the purchasing system, the profile database storing policies and rules created by the network user, the policies and rules specifying conditions for authorizing and executing the suggested electronic transaction;

wherein the policies and rules include:

placing an upper limit on an amount of money that is authorized to be spent on a transaction;

placing a time limit on when a transaction may be executed;

prescribing authorized vendors, suppliers, or entities through which a transaction may be entered; and

specifying delivery options for items and services associated with a transaction.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising:

the purchasing system searching a service/product database in communication with the purchasing system to ensure the items and services associated with the transaction are available.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising:

the purchasing system searching a service/product database in communication with the purchasing system to ensure that the items and services associated with the transaction are compatible with the transaction.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim, 1 further comprising:

the purchasing system generating an electronic invoice upon execution of the transaction and notifying the network user that the transaction has been completed.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the notification is sent via at least one of:

an application programming interface of the computer device;

an email program on the computer device;

a pager;

a telephone call via a voice network;

a computer-generated voice messaging system over a telephone line;

a call on a mobile wireless device;

a personal digital assistant; and

an instant message program.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic activities conducted by the network user include accessing a personal information calendar .

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the previously-conducted electronic activities include:

an occurrence of a meeting scheduled into the personal information calendar and including parameters comprising:

a number of participants;

a meeting location;

a time of day; and

meeting resources and materials;
a web site search;
an electronic purchase;
an email message received or transmitted by the network user;
a calendar item generated or accessed by the network user; and
a task item generated or accessed by the network user.

10. (Previously Presented) A storage medium comprising machine-readable computer program code for automating recurrent electronic transactions conducted over a network, the storage medium including instructions for causing a computer to implement a method comprising:

gathering, by a purchasing system, data from an application executing on a computer device in response to electronic activities conducted by a network user of the computer device, the electronic activities subject to the gathering comprising accessing a web site, performing a detectable user action on a web page, drafting an email, searching a web-based electronic search engine, accessing a personal information calendar, entering a new task or accessing an existing task in an electronic task folder, and creating, editing, or viewing a document; wherein the data gathered includes data collected in response to each of the electronic activities conducted by the network user;

performing analysis of the electronic activities;

inferring an intent to execute a transaction by the network user, the inference based upon results of the analysis and absent any explicit action by the network user to execute the transaction; and

executing the transaction on behalf of the network user, the automatically executing the transaction including executing a purchase of a service/product on behalf of the network user;

wherein the analysis includes:

comparing the electronic activities with previously-conducted electronic activities by the network user; and

applying user-defined policies to the electronic activities.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently amended) The storage medium of claim 10, wherein the comparing the electronic activities with previously-conducted electronic activities further comprises:

collecting data entered by the network user;

parsing the data by comparing the data to data stored in a database containing the previously-conducted electronic activities, the parsing resulting in a suggested electronic transaction for execution;

searching the database for related resources associated with the suggested electronic transaction; and

searching a profile database storing policies and rules created by the network user, the policies and rules operable for specifying conditions for authorizing and executing the suggested electronic transaction;

wherein the policies and rules include:

placing an upper limit on an amount of money that is authorized to be spent on a transaction; and

placing a time limit on when a transaction may be executed;

prescribing authorized vendors, suppliers, or entities through which a transaction may be entered; and

specifying delivery options for items and services associated with a transaction;

wherein the analysis includes:

comparing the electronic activities with previously-conducted electronic activities by the network user;

applying user-defined policies to the electronic activities; and

determining whether the user-defined policies of the network user are in conflict with the transaction;

wherein the transaction is executed upon determining the user-defined policies are not in

conflict with the transaction.

13. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 12, further comprising instructions for causing the computer to implement:

searching a service/product database to ensure the items and services associated with the transaction are available.

14. (Previously presented) The storage medium of claim 12, further comprising instructions for causing the computer to implement:

searching a service/product database to ensure that the items and services associated with the transaction are compatible with the transaction;

generating an electronic invoice upon execution of the transaction; and

notifying the network user that the transaction has been completed.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 14, wherein the notification is sent via an application programming interface.

17. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 14, wherein the notification is sent via at least one of:

an email program on a computer device;

a pager;

a telephone call via a voice network;

a computer-generated voice messaging system over a telephone line;

a call on a mobile wireless device;

a personal digital assistant; and

an instant message program.

18. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 10, wherein the previously-conducted electronic activities include at least one of:

an occurrence of a meeting including parameters comprising:

a number of participants;

a meeting location;

a time of day; and

meeting resources and materials;

a web site search;

an electronic purchase;

an email message received or transmitted by the network user;

a calendar item generated or accessed by the network user; and

a task item generated or accessed by the network user.

19. (Currently amended) A system for automating recurrent electronic transactions conducted over a network, comprising:

a computer system; and

a purchasing system executed via the computer system, the purchasing system implementing a method, comprising:

gathering data from an application executing on a computer device in response to electronic activities conducted by a network user of the computer device, the electronic activities subject to the gathering comprising accessing a web site, performing a detectable user action on a web page, drafting an email, searching a web-based electronic search engine, accessing a personal information calendar, entering a new task or accessing an existing task in an electronic task folder, and creating, editing, or viewing a document; wherein the data gathered includes data collected in response to each of the electronic activities conducted by the network user;

performing analysis of the electronic activities;

inferring an intent to execute a transaction by the network user, the inference based upon results of the analysis and absent any explicit action by the network user to execute the transaction; and

automatically executing the transaction on behalf of the network user, the automatically executing the transaction including executing a purchase of a service/product on behalf of the network user;

wherein the analysis includes:

comparing the electronic activities with previously-conducted electronic activities by the network user; ~~and~~

applying user-defined policies to the electronic activities; and

determining whether the user-defined policies of the network user are in conflict with the transaction;

wherein the transaction is executed upon determining the user-defined policies are not in conflict with the transaction.

20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, wherein comparing the electronic activities with previously-conducted electronic activities further comprises:

collecting data entered by the network user;

parsing the data by comparing the data to data stored in a database containing the previously-conducted electronic activities, the parsing resulting in a suggested electronic transaction for execution;

searching the database for related resources associated with the suggested electronic transaction; and

searching a profile database storing policies and rules created by the network user, the policies and rules operable for specifying conditions for authorizing and executing the suggested electronic transaction;

wherein the policies and rules include:

placing an upper limit on an amount of money that is authorized to be spent on a transaction;

placing a time limit on when a transaction may be executed;

prescribing authorized vendors, suppliers, or entities through which a transaction may be entered; and

specifying delivery options for items and services associated with a transaction.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the purchasing system further performs:

searching a service/product database to ensure the items and services associated with the transaction are available; and

searching a service/product database to ensure that the items and services associated with the transaction are compatible with the transaction.

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the purchasing system is

executed via an application programming interface on the network computer.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the previously-conducted electronic activities include at least one of:

an occurrence of a meeting including parameters comprising:

a number of participants;

a meeting location;

a time of day; and

meeting resources and materials;

a web site search;

an electronic purchase;

an email message received or transmitted by the network user;

a calendar item generated or accessed by the network user; and

a task item generated or accessed by the network user.